

FORM NO. 51-4AA  
FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25X1

## INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

25X1

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 30 January 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Data on Prisons

DATE OF  
INFO.  
25X1  
PLACE  
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

REFERENCE COPY  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793  
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVE-  
LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS  
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The general supervisor of all prisons, forced labor camps and prisoner affairs in Hungary is Hungarian Secret Police (AVH) Colonel Princz (fnu). He often inspects the jails and forced labor camps, where prisoners perform the heaviest physical work under inhuman conditions, insufficient nourishment and ridiculously low salaries. All prisoners, except the "dangerous political criminals", who are held in AVH jails hermetically sealed from the outside world, must do forced labor under the supervision of the AVH.
2. The nationalized industrial undertakings, when asking for cheap forced laborers, apply to Colonel Princz, who does quite a private business by sending prisoners for such work; Princz is known to have amassed a fortune.
3. To render eventual escapes more difficult the prisoners are frequently moved from one prison to another. These moves occur during the night; they are chained to one another and transported in groups in cattle cars. The stations are sealed off by a strong police cordon, and the public never sees any of these moves. At their destination, the prisoners are driven to the working place by day, and the public generally looks upon them with compassion. In the country, forced laborers lent out from prisons, are given living quarters on the premises of their work.
4. On the other hand prisoners held in AVH jails are never sent to work. They are buried forever, according to all information. At present, prisoners convicted for "serious political crimes" (the staunch anti-Communists) are being kept at Budapest in the so-called "Collecting Prison" (Gyűjtő-Fogház), near the Kőbánya Cemetery; at Vác in the AVH prison; at the Sopronkőhida Prison, which since the summer of 1952 also belongs to the AVH; in the notoriously cruel extermination camp at Recsk; and at Budapest in the AVH jail in the Csokonay Utca (street).

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25X1

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION																
ARMY																			

SECRET

25X1

-2-

5. As the Hungarian Secret Police expanded the prisons because too small for the ever increasing number of prisoners and even the barracks for the uniformed guards are overcrowded. Recently the Municipal Hospital on Robert Károly Ut in Budapest has been requisitioned for the female personnel of AVH. In this new AVH barracks almost every AVH woman has the rank of a staff sergeant; these weapon-carrying women begin their training with a six weeks special course, and after its successful termination they become staff sergeants. In the case of especially "meritorious" behavior, they even become second lieutenants. The AVH women billeted in this barracks, always wear uniforms; the others, employed in the secret counter espionage, wear civilian (plain) clothes. They serve in the railroad stations, streetcars, buses, theatres, restaurants, and parks, where they observe the public and act as agents provocateurs.
6. Data on some other prisons:
  - a. In Budapest, on Andor Utca (a small side street off Fehérvári Ut), a new plant has been under construction since 1950. This complex is popularly called the "Red House". Because of the great overcrowding of the prisons, this half-finished plant was taken over by the AVH and part of it was turned into a jail, while the other part is being completed as a factory. In this jail 1,200 prisoners are crowded, most of them for having attempted to cross the frontiers without permission. The minimum punishment for it is five years imprisonment, but many get up to ten years from the "people's courts" after a sham hearing.
  - b. In the "Star Prison" (Csillag Börtön), Szeged, there are at present about 1,300 prisoners; half of them are political prisoners, the other half ordinary convicts. This prison is notorious for prevailing bad conditions and terrific overcrowding.
  - c. The Jászberény jail is a small prison, originally built for 60 persons; today 400 persons are held there. Sixteen persons are crowded into a cell of 12 square meters. One of Hungary's cruelest jailers, Alexander Deményi, serves here and beats up the prisoners for the slightest slips. Among the prisoners there are 200 Yugoslavs, mostly Cominform foes of Tito, who fled to Hungary, but owing to distrust reigning even among Cominform allies, they are being held in jail indefinitely. There are also many Hungarians here, former prisoners of war returned from the USSR, who were imprudent enough to tell their friends what they had seen in Russia. Another torturer in this prison is Sergeant Varga (fnu); he also specializes in stealing the parcels sent to the prisoners by their relatives. A former employee of the Netherlands Legation, and several Austrian citizens are kept in this prison as "spies". The daily food ration of the prisoners is 400 grams of bread and twice a day a weak soup.
  - d. In the former palace of Archduke Joseph, in Budapest, in the small part of the palace which remained relatively intact after the bombings during the siege 600 prisoners are being held. They work, together with 600 civilian laborers, on the demolition and reconstruction of the former immense Royal Palace, which was damaged during the war. Its foundations date from the 12th century and are especially thick and strong, so work here is extremely heavy.
  - e. The Márianosztra Prison used to be a prison for female convicts only; today there are male prisoners also. The number of prisoners amounts to 1,300 persons. Many

SECRET

25X1

SECRET/ [REDACTED]

25X1

-3-

former high-ranking army officers, generals, colonels, sentenced by the Communists for life, have been kept here since 1945; they are held in strictest isolation. Five to seven prisoners are kept in a cell built for two.

- f. Many prisoners are working as forced laborers in the coal mines at Várpalota. Some are former miners sentenced for sabotage to 8 to 10 years of forced labor for having taken part, in December 1951, in demonstrations against the inhuman treatment and low salaries in the Tatabánya coal mines.

SECRET/ [REDACTED]

25X1